**LOUD- Local young leaders for inclusion**

Formation in Pella

date: December 17th, 2019

Session n°: 1

Speakers/ Experts: Federica Trimarchi, Mondinsieme Foundation

Supervisors Anastasia Herkeletzi, Pella Municipality

Participants: 25 students + teachers

Expected objectives of the day:

To facilitate the intercultural learning process, to prepare youngsters for the intercultural dialogue and to give tools for personal development and active citizenship.

Treated contents and methods:

The choice of content responded to participants’ request to deal with disability. The focus was on two main topics: 1. to reflect on what defines one’s identity and how people define themselves in relation to others; 2. to understand the obstacles disabled people face in the society and the rights of the disabled as basic human rights. The methods responded to non-formal education, like in-group activities, role play, and debriefing for helping the transfer.

The objectives set have been achieved: yes, no, partially and why?

The first aim of the module - to facilitate the development of intercultural set of attitudes and helping the participants to listen to themselves and the others - was successfully achieved. Right away it was necessary working on team building in view of the launch of the campaign, because the students come from different schools and rarely can meet. This phase would have needed more time to be accomplished, but the process may keep going with the support of teachers. Regarding the specific theme of disability, through a role play activity we assumed that people with disability are entitled to same human rights as people without it and that environmental barriers hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis. This awareness let us effectively reflected on our difficulties in understanding disable people as result of our prejudices and sometimes incapacity to communicate. Through the activities I spotted sensitivity and empathy beyond my expectations, maturity of thought and enthusiasm to present and communicate a positive image of disability.

Problems encountered:

At the beginning, it seemed difficult to overcome the shyness to express themselves, but gradually the participants felt more comfortable in sharing different perceptions and feelings.

Because of lack of time, it wasn’t possible to carry out one of the activity scheduled about the right to employment for people with disabilities.

Elements to be adapted for the next session:

Follow-up activities have to be in line with sessions already implemented and the objective defined (disabled people’s right to not to be discriminated). It’s very important remembering to be concrete and to define some specifics (target audience, content and action plan). As facilitator, I will support the youngsters to create the content on the specific topic.

Identification positive elements of the day:

The atmosphere was congenial, inclusive and participatory to ask for everyone’s ideas and promoting relations among the young people in order to set up a safe space for intercultural learning. This was an essential aspect for facilitating the learning process.